for another type of bulletin and Rs. 200, or whatever it is, for this type of bulletin. So, there is nothing wrong. Now, more suitable people have been kept. It is no aspersion on those who have been for a long time. It is only that more suitable people have been kept because we have to compete with the other channels. We have to see that our acceptability to the viewers is more. After all, this is the Prasar Bharati's decision.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that there are 18 news readers on the English panel and 24 on the Hindi panel. So far as the Chennai Doordarshan Kendra is concerned, four casual news readers went to the High Court and the court had also ordered for their reinstatement. It is more than three years now. They made a representation to the Minister also. But till date you have not taken any step towards their reinstatement. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will be taking steps to reinstate these employees of the Chennai Doordarshan Kendra or whether you are going to file an appeal before the Supreme Court?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, I am not specifically aware of the case relating to Chennai Kendra, but if there is an order, that will be obeyed. Nobody can disobey a High Court order. The decision to appeal or not to appeal is of the Prasar Bharati, not of the Government. If they go in appeal and if a stay order is obtained by them, then only they will be kept; otherwise, the court order will have to be followed by the authorities, including Prasar Bharati.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Revival Package for SAIL

*242. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to invest 8,000 cr. plus in a revival package for SAIL

(b) whether there will be a waiver on steel development loan amounting to Rs. 5073 cr. among other waivers;

(c) whether the private steel industry are protesting as this would adversely affect the industry; and

(d) if so, what are the Government's views on this?

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Financial and business restructuring package for SAIL has already been approved by the Government and its details are as under:

(i) Financial Restructuring of SAIL by waiving of loans advanced to it from Steel Development Fund to a value of Rs. 5073 crore and Rs. 381 crore from the Govt. of India.

(ii) Provision of Government guarantees with 50% interest subsidy for loan and interest thereon of Rs. 1500 crore to be raised by SAIL from the market to finance reduction in manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(iii) Provision of Government guarantee for loan and interest thereon of Rs. 1500 crore including Rs. 500 crore already agreed to be raised by SAIL from the market primarily for meeting repayment obligation on past loans during 1999-2000.

(iv) To initiate the process of divestment of following non-core assets while protecting jobs of existing employees

- Power Plants at Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela
  - — 2 x 60 MW Captive power plant—II at Rourkela Steel Plant and Central Power Training Institute at Rourkela
  - — 2 x 50 MW Captive power plant—II at Durgapur Steel Plant
  - — 122 MW (2 x 55 MW + 12 MW back pressure turbine) Captive Power Plant -I, 360 MW Captive Power Plant—II and steam generating Pacity of 660 Mt/hour at Bokaro Steel Plant
- Oxygen Plant—II of Bhilai Steel Plant.
- Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem
- Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur
- Vivesvarya Iron & Steel Plant (VISL), Bhadravati
- Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela

(v) Allowing SAIL to have a minority shareholding in any joint venture contemplated for revival of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO).

(c) and (d) The revival package has been generally welcomed.

Ban on Export of Leather

†*245. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban has been imposed by the Government on export of different varieties of leather from the Country;

(b) if so, what are those different varietieis of leather;

(c) what was the average annual value of export of this banned leather before imposing a ban on its export; and

(d) the reasons for imposing a ban on it now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The export of Raw Hides and Skins, Industrial Leathers, Linning Leathers, Semi-finished leather such as wet blue hides and skins, crust leather, EI tanned leather etc. have been under restriction since January, 1973.

(c) Details of variety-wise export is as below:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	Item	1971-72
1.	E.I. tanned leather and skins	64.27
2.	Finished leather	3.56
3.	Chrome tanned	21.77
4.	Leather Miscellaneous	0.55
	Total of Leather & Leather Mfg.	90.15

(d) The restrictions have been in existence since 1973 and relaxed in the case of E.I. tanned leather in January, 2000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.